

Errors & Flaws.

The original article called '*Perfined Errors and Flaws*', which appeared in Bulletin N°. 339 (December 2005), featured four examples of printing and perforating 'Errors'. Over the years more examples have been reported, so now is a good time to bring all known 'Errors' under one roof. For convenience these errors have been split into two distinct categories:

- Printing/Perforation errors - philatelic errors produced during stamp production.
- Perfin Die errors/error of Lettering - Perfin errors produced during the manufacture of the Die or Perfin production. 'Rogue Pin' errors have been covered in a separate study.

Printing Errors.

The earliest 'error' I can find a reference to with a Perfin is the '**OP-PC**' error on the **Queen Victoria Line Engraved 1½d plate 1** initialled with "**GLYN**" (G3260.01). The illustration alongside is of Maurice Harp's copy, and may well be the one listed by Charles Jennings on page 64 of his 'The History of British Security Stamps' (1968). Currently, *four* copies with the '**OP-PC**' error have been reported, three with the Perfin "**GLYN**" (G3260.01). {Bulletin N°. 339, December 2005}.



Also reported by Terry Sitch is "**DT&F**" (D4780.01) with the same '**OP-PC**' error, up for Auction in February 2019.



The '**OP-PC**' error was made on the original **plate 1** which was prepared for use in 1860 but not issued until 1st October 1870 in a Rose-red colour. The error was not noticed until 1894 when it appeared in an American philatelic journal. The error does not appear on plate 3.

A lesser known error, but equally spectacular, is '**LH-FL**', found on the Queen Victoria **2½d Rosy-Mauve plate 2**. A perfined copy of this error has recently surfaced with the Perfin die "**BRYCE**" (B6280.03), used in Glasgow. It was sold by Universal Philatelic Auctions early in **2018** for £310. A second perfined example, this time "**S.F.&C°.**" (S2920.02), is recorded on cover in the GB Journal (March 2005). {Bulletin N°. 418, February 2019}.



Looking out for inverted watermarks might prove fruitful!



Maurice Harp reported a QV 2½d Rosy Mauve (plate 17) with an *inverted watermark* in Bulletin N°. 386 (October 2013), and has also kindly provided images of *Larry Rausch's* *inverted watermark* QV 1d Red plate 154 with "**B.F.J.C**" (B2785.01). The stamp probably dates to *c1872*.



Printing errors can manifest themselves in many ways, typically by colour flaws and folded sheets. The Queen Victoria 1d Venetian Red, dating to [1880/1](#), perforated with “**JnoS**” (J5790.01) clearly shows a colour flaw streaking down the stamp. The second item, noted by **Mike Bavin** in an auction, is far more striking! This time we see “**BL/F**” (B4350.02), albeit with a few pins missing, on a spectacular paper fold pair.



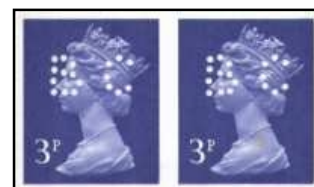
Perhaps the most remarkable ‘printing error’ ever with a Perfin is this item which appeared in Bulletin N°. 393 (December 2014). The piece, reported by **John Marriner**, is a mint copy of a 16-dot 1d lilac with Perfin “**RJP**” (R3030.01M), but as can be seen, a piece of paper had become stuck on top of a sheet prior to printing causing a spectacular printing error.

The sheet would then have been purchased at a Post Office and given to the office boy to perforate in the normal way with the company perforating press. It’s a wonder the extra bit of paper stayed with the sheet long enough for printing, stamp perforating, storing prior to dispatch to the Post Office, and finally being perfinned. I guess the office boy saw the error and thought he would keep it as a souvenir thinking it might be worth something one day!

The control ‘U’ puts the printing well into the [late 1890’s](#) (Feb 1896 - Apr 1897). Very little is known about this die except it was used 1890-1905, and nothing at all about the user except for ‘FB’ (Foreign Branch), ‘NPB’ (Newspaper Branch), and London EC postmarks. Minor variations have been reported on existing examples, and the 20.5mm spacing between patterns on a known horizontal pair all point to a multi-headed die with at least two patterns.

Perforating Errors.

Here we have a mint imperforate pair of 3p Ultramarine (2-band) Machins with the Perfin “**BC**” (B1110.03M). The pair probably dates to around [1972](#). This multiheaded die was used by J Sloper & Co to perforate postage stamps for at least twenty-two local

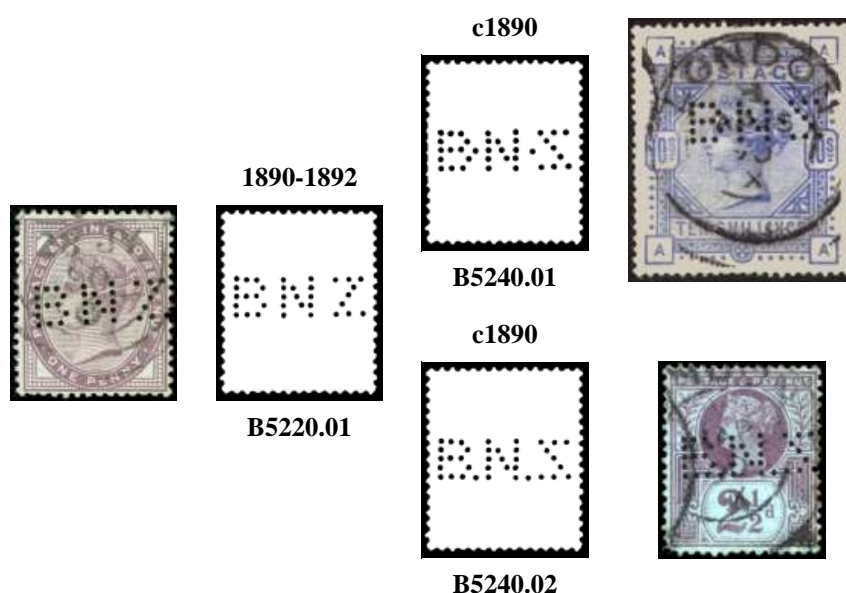


authorities, a hospital board, and 3 commercial companies, so it's impossible to know exactly who received the sheet with the error.

Perfin Die Errors.

Two errors are known involving a *reversed* “Z”, both were probably used by the ‘*Bank of New Zealand*’ in London. The late *Mike Oxley* reported a reversed “Z” (with raised stops) on a QV 10/- postmarked London, *5th April 1890* - see B5240.01 below. In fact, the late *Dr Reg Powell* may well have been the first owner of this stamp. The other reversed “Z” example was sent in by *Steve Netten* on a QV 2½d ‘Jubilee’. This example has stops on the baseline rather than raised. The postmark is London, *11th April 1890* - see B5240.02 below.

For a brief period the two ‘error’ stamps were in the same place, so a direct comparison could be made between them and the final “BNZ” die, B5220.01. Where expected, all three Perfins ‘blackened-out’ on each other, which strongly suggests they all came from the same die. Perhaps the raised stop at the back of the “B” caused offense, so the stops were lowered without noticing the reversed “Z”. On noticing the reversed “Z”, the error was corrected and the stops removed altogether. The earliest date known for “BNZ” (B5220.01) is *28th July 1890* (illustrated).

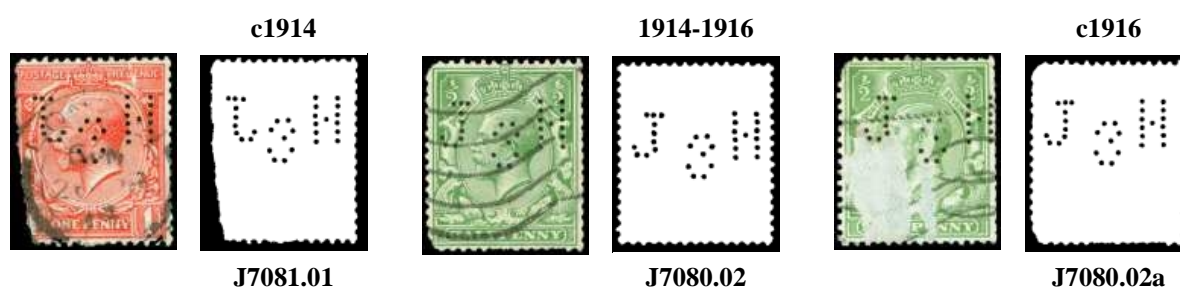
More reversed letters.

Two more ‘reversed letter’ die errors appeared in Bulletin N^o. 269 (April 1994).

This first example is “**P&N**” (P3340.04) with a reversed “N”, known only from a single example on a fiscally used 16-dot QV 1d Lilac. The silhouette was taken from a b&w photocopy, so the ‘holes’ either side of the central hole in the “N” may be simply pencil marks or a naive attempt to make the letter an “N” and getting it wrong in the process! Certainly the two holes appear smaller than the other holes in the Perfin.



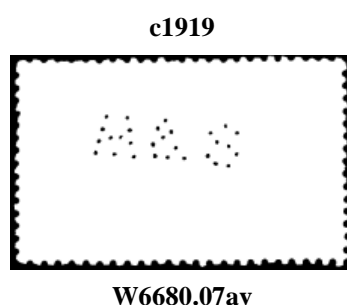
As part of due diligence, there are no known “P&B”, “P&H” and “P&M” Perfins that match.



This next series of Perfins have been produced by a German '*Michelius*' affixing and perforating press. The first die "**JSH**" (or is it "**J3H**") - allocated J7081.01 - shows a "J" which is clearly reversed. It is known in this condition postmarked London, **28th March 1914**.

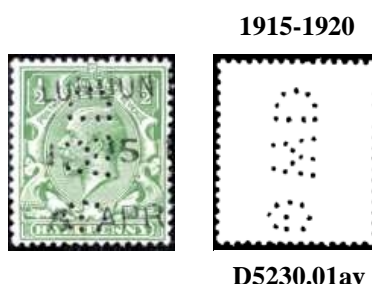
It was hastily repaired (see J7080.02 - known used **12th June 1914** to the **13th March 1916**), clearly showing the bottom of the upright moving to the right before sweeping round to the left to form the curved foot to the "J". It was replaced completely by J7080.02a sometime around 1916. The user is currently unknown - the only clue is a London postmark.

'SPG' Types with reversed letters.



The above large format stamp was created, probably by Waterlow & Sons, using three individual single 'letter' dies clamped together - creating a so-called '*SPG*' type. Here, human error has resulted in the first letter, the letter "W", being used inverted. The stamp in question is a KGV 2/6d Seahorse (Type 'A'), dated 9th September 1919. The user was probably '*Waterlow & Sons*' who are thought to have produced the Perfin! {Bulletin N°. 390, June 2014}.

There is one more 'SPG' type that has been reported (by *Ron Mills* in June 2015) with a reversed letter. This is "**DWG**" (D5230.01v), used by '*D & W Gibbs*', City Soap Works, Wapping, London E, but with the first letter inserted upside down producing "**D(reversed)WD**" (D5230.01av).



Sloper Wartime Provisionals with reversed letters.

A 'Sloper Wartime Provisional' is a term given to a Perfin produced by J Sloper & Co during WWII after their works were "Blitzed" by the German Luftwaffe on the night of 9th May 1941. The technique involves perforating a set of letters by using *more than one* perforating die. This manual technique results in Perfins showing variation in placement of the 2nd, and subsequent letters, relative to the first.

The first one to be discovered was "UB/C" with a reversed "C" on a 3d issue 'Q'. This was reported by *Stephen Steere* and was featured on the cover of Bulletin N^o. 355 (August 2008), along with a detailed description inside.

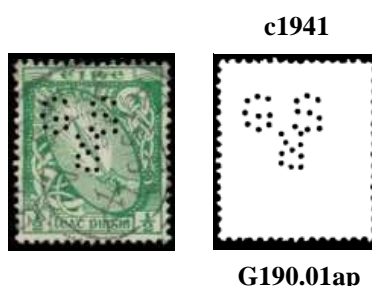
Close examination revealed that all three letters were struck from the front of the stamp, but in the final stage of the process either:

- the sheets of stamps were fed through inverted, or
- the die forming the "C" was inserted into the perforating machine inverted.

In either case the net result is that the "C" was inverted.



As can be seen, the 'error' stamp was used in combination with a 1/- issue 'Q' with another Wartime Provisional "UB" (U0210.02ap) - cover postmarked London, 5th November 1941. The user was the '*United Baltic Corporation Ltd*', 158 Fenchurch St, London EC3.



The second sighting of a Sloper Wartime Provisional 'error' was by the late *Michael Millar* in April 2010 when he reported an Irish Perfin with "GS/R", but with the "R" inverted. The stamp is an Eire ½p 'Sword of Light', postmarked Baile A't(ha Cliath) [Dublin] and dated 12 XII 41 [12th December 1941]. The user was the '*Great Southern Railways*' in Ireland.

c1945



W2630.01bp

This third and latest sighting was reported by *Steve Netten* in January 2014, although the explanation is rather more complicated. Although undated, it appears on a 1d issue 'R' dating from sometime after August 1941 (when the stamp was issued), and has a partial Lon(don) postmark. In this case, both the "W" and the "F" were struck *from the back of the stamp* (i.e. gummed side upwards), and the "D" struck from the front of the stamp.

This case is different to the preceding two in that the only explanation is that the sheet or sheets of stamps were fed into the perforating machine with the gummed side uppermost for both the first and second letters, and that the error was noticed prior to the final operation of punching the "D" (or that would have been reversed as well).

I believe the intended lettering was "WF/D" - Wartime Provisionals with this lettering (W2630.01ap) were used by *Willis, Faber & Dumas Ltd*, Insurance Brokers, London EC3, from 1941 through to the middle of 1948. A 'regular' die was in use by the early 1950's.

Note - There is no record of a Wartime Provisional lettered "FW/D".

Rogue Pins.



Please note that Perfins with '*Rogue Pins*' are also classed as 'errors', but these have been dealt with as a separate topic - see **00-02-13 'Rogue Pins'**. Typical examples shown above.

And finally, if you can add any more details that further refine any of the stated date ranges, or provide colour scans of the 'missing' examples, I would be pleased to hear from you. And of course, please report any unlisted *Errors and Flaws* you're lucky enough to find!

My thanks go to:

Mike Bavin, Maurice Harp, John Marriner, Michael Millar, Ron Mills, Steve Netten,
Mike Oxley, Terry Sitch, and Stephen Steere.

Information correct to *16th February 2019*.

Mini Log of Changes:

16-Feb-19 page 1 'OP-PC' error added 'DT&F' (D4780.01) - Terry Sitch.